TURKESTAN. MR. FRANK N. MEYER, AGRICULTURAL EXPLORER.

Was in Merv June 12. Says there is a pretty park there where tall specimens of poplar occur (Populus alba pyramidalis). He also saw there for the first time some fine, large specimens of the karakach (Ulmus campestris umbraculifera). They are very striking trees with their umbrella like shape and dense mass of foliage. They will be highly appreciated by settlers in desert regions. Other trees in this park are Acer negundo, Robinia pseud-acacia, Sophora japonica, Ailanthus glandulosa, Gleditsia triacanthos, Salix babylonica, Toxylon pomiferum, Catalpa bignonioides, Morus alba, Cydonia vulgaris, Prunus armeniaca and Pyrus communis. On June 13, there was a great market held in Merv. There were present Turcomans, Afghanistanese, Kirghisians and many other wild looking inhabitants of these regions. The products, such as fruits and vegetables, were mostly very poor. There is a German colony 30 versts northeast of Merv. Here he went to see cotton and alfalfa culture at the edge of the desert. Describes in some detail the method of cultivating these crops. In the desert around Merv there are tens of thousands of acres of land covered with camel's thorn (Alhagi camelorum). Its small, pinkish-purple flowers give color to the landscape as the heath in Northwest Europe does. This plant is very useful, being used as food for the camels, mown and used for fuel and as a sandbinder. It grows in pure, sterile sand, and being leguminous, enriches the soil. There are many canals around Merv, some of them said to be 3,000 years old. Large new canals are being dug, and it is hoped to bring much of the desert under cultivation. On June 15, he visited the Imperial Estate of Murgab. The apricot trees were heavily loaded. Some varieties of apricots, pears and quinces seemed out of the ordinary, and he will send scions. Visited Mr. W. A. Palletsky, in charge of sandbinding work along the railroad in Central Asia. It is most interesting to see how tall bushes of Calligonum caput-medusae, C. arborescens, Salsola richteri and Haloxylon ammodendron (saxaul), have grown into a sort of forest in a soil that is almost pure sand, and moving sand at that. And even a few seeds of the Chinese tree of heaven (Ailanthus glandulosa) have lodged between these real desert plants and grown vigorously to a fairly good size. The saxaul will not grow on shifting sand. To arrest a shifting sand hill various Calligonums, the Salsola richteri, and after that saxaul are planted. There are an immense number of Calligonums; up to the present 57 species have been found, of which only 30 have been scientifically determined. Visited the nursery where the young plants are raised and describes the method of getting the plants started in the shifting sand. Hedges of Tamarix and the wild form of Elaeagnus angustifolia